

PATENT
Appl. No. 09/770,975
Attorney Docket No. 450103-3873.1

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 13, 14, 17, 18, and 21-23 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 16 and 20 have been canceled; and claims 13, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

§103 Rejection of Claims 13-20

In Section 6 of the Office Action, claims 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cluts (U.S. Patent No. 5,616,876) in view of Atcheson *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,763; hereinafter referred to as "Atcheson") and further in view of Schiller *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,499,046; hereinafter referred to as "Schiller"). Claims 13, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended to address the rejection.

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that "[t]he average user, however, typically has no access to this tailor-made expert information. Namely, the user may own a number of Compact Disks (CD) with classical music, for example, and he or she listens to these CDs in random order. Although the pieces in the user personal library can be researched individually to determine what every one of them represents, the user typically cannot properly digest and synthesize such a piece-meal information to obtain a collection that transcend the user's random listening. Only with the music experts' help can the user achieve that ultimate listening experience by combining individual pieces from various CDs to form a special playlist: it is as if a unique CD or tape were produced for the user by an expert or group of experts. It is possible to obtain such a unique CD by spending a lot of effort in laboriously writing down the

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titles of each album and sending them to the experts. Or, the experts may be invited to the user's home for advice and coffee. Both alternative do not appear to be viable or, at least, easily achievable." *Background of the Specification, page 1, line 17 to page 2, line 10 (emphasis added).*

To address the above-described difficulties, embodiments of the present invention provide system and method for accessing, over a wide area network, multimedia equipment for reproducing multimedia information recorded on data storage media. For example, the structure of system claim 13, as presented herein, includes:

"generating means for generating a list of contents of multimedia information recorded on data storage media of a first user at a first equipment location by processing contents data of each medium in the data storage media at the first equipment location, said generating means operating to transfer said list of contents via said wide area network to an expert at a second equipment location, said expert being knowledgeable about said multimedia information so that said expert can provide recommendations about said multimedia information, said expert modifying the generated list of contents by selecting items from said list of contents and rearranging the selected items to produce a rearranged list of contents;

converting means for converting the rearranged list of contents to at least one command script file for controlling the multimedia equipment at the first equipment location, said at least one command script file including a series of commands for controlling the multimedia equipment in compliance with a smart control protocol used in multimedia components; and

controlling means for controlling the multimedia equipment at the first equipment location based on said at least one command script file, wherein the multimedia information recorded on the first user's storage media is reproduced on the multimedia equipment, located at the first equipment location, based on the rearranged list of contents."

(emphasis added)

In summary, system claim 13 comprises: (1) *a generating means* for transferring the list of contents via said wide area network to an expert at a second equipment location, where the expert is knowledgeable about the multimedia information so that the expert can provide

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recommendations about the multimedia information; (2) *a converting means* for converting the rearranged list of contents to at least one command script file for controlling the multimedia equipment at the first equipment location, where the command script file is in compliance with a smart control protocol used in multimedia components; and (3) *a controlling means*.

By contrast, it is stated in the Office Action that Cluts discloses a system for accessing multimedia equipment for reproducing multimedia information recorded on data storage media. It is stated that Cluts does not disclose the list of contents being generated by a first user and transferred to a second user. It is stated that Atcheson discloses the generating means to transfer the list of contents. Further, it is stated that Schiller discloses editing and modifying a playlist. Therefore, Cluts, Atcheson, and Schiller, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a system comprising: (1) *a generating means* for transferring the list of contents via said wide area network to an expert at a second equipment location, where the expert is knowledgeable about the multimedia information so that the expert can provide recommendations about the multimedia information; (2) *a converting means* for converting the rearranged list of contents to at least one command script file for controlling the multimedia equipment at the first equipment location, where the command script file is in compliance with a smart control protocol used in multimedia components; and (3) *a controlling means*.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is maintained claim 13 should be allowable over the combination of Cluts, Atcheson, and Schiller. Furthermore, since independent claim 17 closely parallels, and includes substantially similar limitations as recited in, independent claim 13, claim 17 should also be allowable over the combination of Cluts, Atcheson, and Schiller. Since claims 14 and 18 depend from claims 13 and 17, respectively, claims 14 and 18 should also be allowable over the combination of Cluts, Atcheson, and Schiller. Claims 15-16 and 19-20 have

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been canceled. Since claims 21-23 depend from claim 13, claims 21-23 should also be allowable over the combination of Cluts, Atcheson, and Schiller.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 13-20 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 13, 14, 17, 18, and 21-23 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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